



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **KING MACKEREL COMMERCIAL FISHERY CLOSED IN NORTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE**

The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the northern Florida west coast subzone is closed, effective 12:01 a.m., November 19, 2000, through June 30, 2001. NOAA Fisheries has determined that the commercial quota of 175,500 pounds of king mackerel for the northern Florida west coast subzone for the 2000/2001 fishing year has been reached. In combination with the earlier closure of the western zone, this action extends the closure in the Gulf of Mexico from the U.S./Mexico border to the Lee/Collier County, Florida boundary (see reverse).

Closure of the commercial king mackerel fishery in the northern Florida west coast subzone complies with regulations implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) and is necessary to protect the overfished Gulf group king mackerel resource.

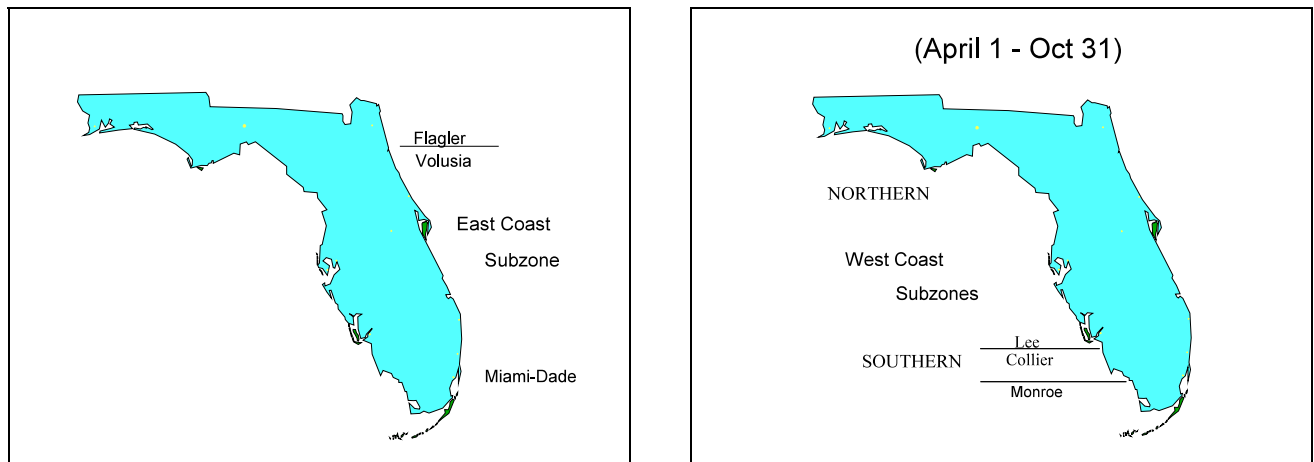
Except for a person aboard a charter vessel or headboat, during the closure, no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for king mackerel has been issued may fish for Gulf group king mackerel in federal waters in the closed zone or subzone. A person aboard a vessel that has a valid charter vessel/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish may continue to retain king mackerel in or from the closed zone/subzone under the 2-fish daily bag limit, provided the vessel is operating as a charter

vessel or headboat. Note, however, that the bag limit is zero king mackerel for operators or crew members of charter vessels or headboats. Charter vessels or headboats that hold a commercial king mackerel permit are considered to be operating as a charter vessel or headboat when they carry a passenger who pays a fee or when more than three persons are aboard, including operator and crew.

During the closure no king mackerel caught in the closed zone/subzone may be purchased, bartered, traded, or sold. This prohibition of sale does not apply to trade in king mackerel that were harvested, landed ashore and bartered, traded, or sold before the closure and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Quotas and closure provisions for mackerel fisheries were developed in the FMP jointly by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. In compliance with the FMP, an annual commercial quota of 3.39 million pounds was established for Gulf group king mackerel. This quota was divided into commercial quotas of 1.05 million pounds for the western zone and 2.34 million pounds for the eastern zone off Florida. The northern Florida west coast subzone quota was derived from the eastern zone quota. Regulations implemented under the FMP require closure of any segment of the commercial fishery when its quota is reached or is projected to be reached.

## GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: FLORIDA WEST COAST SEASONAL BOUNDARIES



## GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2000/2001 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS		STATUS		
					BEGINNING	CURRENT	
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,340,000						
East Coast Subzone <sup>1</sup>	1,082,250	50 Fish	Nov 1	until 1,082,250 lb	Opened 11/01/2000		<b>Open: 50 Fish/day</b>
West Coast Subzones	1,257,750						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	175,500	1,250 lb 500 lb 0 lb	Jul 1 Nov 12'00 Nov 19'00	until 131,625 lb until 175,500 lb until Jul 1'01	Opens 07/01/2001		<b>Closed 11/19/00</b>
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	541,125	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1 405,844	until 405,844 lb until 541,125 lb	Opened 07/01/2000		<b>Open: 1,250 lb/day</b>
Gillnet	541,125	25,000 lb	Jan 16 '01	until 541,125 lb	Opens 01/16/2001 <sup>2</sup>		<b>Closed</b>
WESTERN ZONE (Texas - Alabama)	1,050,000	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1 Aug 26'00	until 1,050,000 lb until Jul 1'01	Opens 07/01/2001		<b>Closed 08/26/2000</b>
Hook and Line							

<sup>1</sup> The Florida eastcoast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

<sup>2</sup> Fishery is closed through 6:00 a.m., January 16, 2001.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact NMFS Law Enforcement Division at 727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964. NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the websites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or the South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at [safmc@noaa.gov](mailto:safmc@noaa.gov) or [gulf.council@noaa.gov](mailto:gulf.council@noaa.gov), respectively.